GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:249
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2002
SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS FROM IRAN TO INDIA
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Joint Committee of Indian and Iranian experts was set up sometime back to study the various options for supply of Natural Gas from the South Pars field in Iran to the Northern and Western India;

(b) if so, whether the study has been completed;

(c) if so, the findings of the study group and the decisions taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether Gasprome of Russia has sent a proposal to build a Natural Gas Pipeline from Iran to India via Pakistani Coastal Waters;

(e) if so, whether the Government considered the proposal in all its ramifications; and

(f) if so, decisions the Government has taken in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK)

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 249 BY SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY AND DR. ASHOK PATEL TO BE ANSWERED ON 5th DECEMBER, 2002 REGARDING SUPP NATURAL GAS FROM IRAN TO INDIA.

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Under bilateral cooperation, Indo-Iran Joint Committee constituted a Joint Technical Sub-Committee to assist it to explore all the options to import natural gas from Iran. The Joint Committee has decided to undertake an offshore feasibility study for laying of pipeline from Iran to India outside the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Pakistan. GAIL (India) Limited from India and National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) from Iran have been nominated as nodal agencies for the pipeline project by the respective Governments. Accordingly, GAIL and NIOC have jointly commissioned an offshore pipeline feasibility study for the pipeline from Iran to India. The Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) may be completed by early next year. Decision to take up the project would depend on technical feasibility and economic viability of the project.

(d): No, Sir. There is no formal proposal. However, subsequent to the 8th meeting of Indo-Russian Joint Working Group on Cooperation in Petroleum Sector held on 21-22nd January, 2002, Gasprome had made a presentation to GAIL on three pipeline options for transportation of natural gas from Iran, namely,
(i) an on-land gas pipeline through Pakistan
(ii) a shallow water gas pipeline within the territorial waters of Pakistan and
(iii) finally a deep water gas pipeline to India

(e)&(f): Do not arise.